LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director



Verdi Requiem

Saturday, January 30, 2016 — 2 pm Sunday, January 31, 2016 — 7 pm Walt Disney Concert Hall

Los Angeles Master Chorale Grant Gershon, conductor Amber Wagner, soprano Michelle DeYoung, mezzo soprano Issachah Savage, tenor Morris Robinson, bass

Giuseppe Verdi

(1813-1901)

Messa da Requiem

- I. Requiem
- II. Dies irae
 - Dies irae Tuba mirum Liber scriptus Quid sum miser Rex tremendae Recordare Ingemisco Confutatis Lacrymosa
- III. Offertorio
- IV. Sanctus
- V. Agnus Dei
- VI. Lux aeterna
- VII. Libera me

This concert will be performed without intermission.

This concert is sponsored in part by a generous grant from the Dan Murphy Foundation.

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Verdi Requiem

PROGRAM NOTES

VERDI'S REQUIEM: A COSMIC CHORAL DRAMA

"I would like to compose a Mass for the Dead to be performed next year for the anniversary of his death," wrote Giuseppe Verdi to his publisher on June 2, 1873, shortly after the burial of his idol, the novelist, poet and patriot Alessandro Manzoni. "The Mass would have rather vast dimensions, and besides a large orchestra and a large chorus, four or five principal singers (I cannot be specific yet) would be needed."

The ambition of the memorial project he had in mind makes sense when we consider the personal significance of the artist he wanted to honor. Verdi's passionate love of literature is reflected in the sources he chose to adapt throughout his operatic career. They range from works by Shakespeare and Schiller to those of such contemporaries as Hugo and Dumas. Yet it was Manzoni's own person — the man revered as the leading literary figure of nineteenth-century Italy — whose death prompted Verdi to complete one of his most dramatically moving masterpieces.

Alessandro Manzoni (1785-1873) had been an icon ever since Verdi's teenage years, when the budding composer devoured *I promessi sposi (The Betrothed)*, Manzoni's groundbreaking historical novel. Published in the mid-1820s, *I promessi sposi* is treasured as the foundational epic of modern Italian literature. Meanwhile, the author himself became a cultural hero during Italy's protracted struggle for national unification. In this respect, Manzoni's life suggests uncanny parallels with Verdi's own. (Curiously, Verdi, who died at age 87 in 1901, enjoyed a life almost as long as that of the novelist.)

As far as Verdi was concerned, Manzoni was a secular saint one he preferred to the official saints of the Catholic Church. The *Messa da Requiem* or Requiem he announced to his publisher was a project Verdi determined to complete in time for the first anniversary of Manzoni's death. He himself conducted the premiere on May 22, 1874, at the Church of San Marco in Manzoni's native Milan. (San Marco was the very church where the funeral — which Verdi was unable to attend — had been held the year before.) Only once did Verdi meet Manzoni in person — in 1868. That was the year in which the idea of a Requiem was first planted in Verdi's mind — but in honor of still another cultural hero: Gioachino Rossini, who died in November of that year. Verdi came up with the idea to organize a dozen other Italian composers, each of whom was to contribute a separate movement for a Requiem that would be performed on the anniversary of Rossini's death.

Even though the miscellaneous parts were collected, financial squabbling and other unpleasantness scuttled performance plans. The memorial Requiem was dropped; "men of talent are almost always overgrown boys," the frustrated Verdi remarked. His *Aida* had by this time been premiered (in Cairo, in late 1871), and Verdi had embarked on a period of semi-retirement, retreating to his country estate and farm at Sant' Agata near Busseto (in Parma). But the music he had already written for the scrapped Rossini project — the movement he had been assigned was the Libera me — was not wasted. Verdi later incorporated this into his Manzoni Requiem.

Verdian Paradoxes

One fascinating paradox associated with the Requiem — and there are several — is that the stark reality of death inspired in the composer a rejuvenating revival of creative energy. Another is that Verdi, an avowed freethinker who flouted convention and had little faith in the institutional Catholicism in which he had been raised, was somehow driven to write music of soul-stirring profundity in response to the ancient ecclesiastical ritual.

The Requiem stands apart not just within the composer's career, but within the era. Few other works from the century's second half rival Verdi's success in breathing a fresh spirit of individuality into the enervated tradition of sacred music. One parallel that does come to mind is by yet another artist who was similarly skeptical regarding matters of piety and religious creed; for him, too, an independent world view did not restrict his capacity to explore deeply spiritual intuitions: Johannes Brahms and his *Deutsches Requiem* (1868).

With *Aida* behind him, a crowning success, Verdi felt it was time to draw the curtain on his composing career and on the neverending frenzy of the opera biz. Nothing held more appeal at this point in his life than the prospect of spending whatever years remained in comfortably secluded retirement with the former soprano Giuseppina Strepponi, his second wife. But the Manzoni project reignited Verdi's need to express himself in music. Perhaps it also suggested the possibility for a deeper artistic leave-taking.

As a result, Verdi's Requiem acquired a remarkable sense of urgency: He completed the massive score by April 1874, within

less than a year. Moreover, the scale of his canvas and musical thinking expanded, taking on operatic dimensions. The composer tapped once again into the creative well — just as he would do, twice, for the miraculous operatic undertakings of his final decades, when later periods of silence yielded, first, to *Otello* and, ultimately, to *Falstaff*.

Opera in Disguise?

Although the Requiem was premiered in the context of church liturgy, Verdi intended it for secular performance — where the focus could be on the music itself. Hans von Bülow, a conductor and hugely influential musical figure of the era — the champion of Brahms and Wagner alike — notoriously dismissed the work at first without even bothering to attend the premiere, dubbing it "an opera in ecclesiastical robes." Later recanting this flippant verdict, Bülow came to share the opinion of his friend Brahms, who found Verdi's score to be the product of genuine genius. Yet both admirers and detractors of Verdi frequently come up with a similar image of the Requiem as an opera in disguise in order to explain its unique character.

Without a doubt, it's easy to point to other celebrated works of sacred music by Handel, say, or even to Mozart's own Requiem, and to find sections at least that would be perfectly suitable for the opera house. The director Peter Sellars has referred to Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* as his most successful "opera." (Last year the LA Master Chorale took part in the staging of the *Missa Solemnis* directed by James Darrah, with the LA Philharmonic conducted by Michael Tilson Thomas.) By the same token, several of Verdi's operas incorporate self-consciously "sacred" music to enhance the dramatic atmosphere — sometimes, as in *La forza del destino* or *Don Carlos*, by way of dark parody of religious corruption.

As for his Requiem, Verdi undeniably draws on his wealth of experience as an opera composer, deploying the rhetorical devices of opera in turn to heighten the sense of what is at stake. You can hear fresh echoes of the recent *Aida*, and Verdi even recycled the melody from a duet he had written for *Don Carlos* but later cut (in the Lacrymosa). The Requiem also anticipates the still-to-be-written *Otello* in the stormy onslaught of the vast Dies irae section — music that, more than anywhere else in the work, is bound to be compared with the musical thinking familiar from opera. This is music, writes choral music authority Nick Strimple, that "is awash in primary colors. Its sense of drama is total. And one must search many years in each direction — back to Handel's *Saul* (1739) and forward to Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* (1931) — in order to find another choral work that presents its case in terms so purely visceral."

It's fair to say that Verdi's Requiem on one level represents a testament that sums up the composer's accumulated musical wisdom. At the same time, Verdi *intensifies* this wisdom to create something new and unprecedented. We shouldn't let the issue

of genre or generic character distract us from what is so special about this late Verdi masterpiece.

As the composer himself emphasized, this is a score that needs to be performed in a style of its own: "One must not sing this Mass as one sings an opera, and therefore the *coloriti* [specific aspects of its expressive gestures] that may be good for the theater will not be to my liking at all."

The very act of composing a requiem seemed to liberate Verdi from the constraints of psychological realism, as well as from the limiting conventions of the opera stage. The framework of the Requiem allowed Verdi to home in on the cosmic drama that made these liturgical texts of relevance to him — and without the distractions of a plot and similar operatic conventions.

Structure of the Requiem

Cast in seven large-scale movements, the Requiem shows off Verdi's genius for finding the fitting and distinctive color for each — not unlike his operatic *tinta* (signature color), to use the composer's own term for those particular musical features that, he proudly noted, gave each of his operas a distinguishing flavor or feature.

Verdi ended up settling for four rather than five soloists: these singers acquire the status of archetypal individuals facing the human condition — as opposed to particular characters in an opera. (Wagner, in contrast, would opt for mythic archetypes.) The chorus plays the role of the community in which our individual lives unfold.

Verdi also allots a major part to his orchestra, weaving a fabric of almost symphonic coherence at times, along with an abundance of moment-to-moment insight and commentary on each existential situation that is explored. He creates unity by means of recurring ideas — but, as David Rosen observes in his study of the Requiem, these ideas "are not restricted to thematic material but...may also include texture, harmonic progressions, orchestration, tempo, and the like."

Music of the Requiem

It's one of the great openings in the choral literature: almost inaudible and richly mysterious, the Introit sets the work in motion as a number of thematic and harmonic motifs coalesce, taking shape from the darkness. These include a descending figure and a stepwise chromatic idea — core ideas from which Verdi generates much of the Requiem's musical material. The soloists sing for the first time in the Kyrie, where the musical character warms up with the addition of woodwinds.

Some composers — think Brahms or Fauré — emphasize the need for consolation of the survivors in their take on the traditional Requiem; others (arguably, Mozart) focus on the act of pleading for the deceased. Verdi's treatment is even more encompassing, driven by a cosmic quest for redemption. The immense space he allots for the following movement — the

continued on next page...

ten-part Dies irae (also known as the Sequentia), which lasts about 40 minutes — establishes the epic, Michelangelesque scale of Verdi's canvas.

The tempest and terror of this Day of Judgment — complete with hammer strokes from the bass drum — thrill us with music that has become the sonic signature of the Requiem. But note that this is only *one* part of an enormous emotional spectrum Verdi brings to life. The Sequentia can be interpreted as a microcosm of the Requiem as a whole: It re-enacts the shifting poses of fear, anxiety, hope, and remembered faith that are the work's fault lines. The singers' perspectives continually shift, making them alternately observers and participants, commentators and agents, as they give voice to conditions ranging from shellshocked despair to childlike faith.

In short, this music underscores the principle of contrast — in mood, texture, vocal setting, instrumentation, dynamics — so essential to Verdi's musical strategy. Following the onslaught of the Dies irae, the call of the last trumpets builds a sense of inexorable tension as prelude to the Tuba mirum. (The call is performed by eight players, who execute one of Verdi's experiments with spatial acoustics.) Pregnant pauses draw us in more closely. The solo bass is the first individual voice to emerge from the collective in the Sequentia: He stops short at the naked reality of death, tripping on the repeated word "mors."

An extraordinary diversity of vocal combinations follows: solo arias, a duet, a trio, and two quartets, with beautiful a cappella textures reserved for the Pie Jesu. Verdi chooses selectively from his orchestral palette to find just the right tint: an eloquently mournful bassoon in Quid sum miser and the cello for the lullaby-like sweetness of the Recordare. The tempest that had launched the Dies irae returns again and again, impetuous as a fate motif, while the Sequentia's conclusion anticipates the sense of ambiguity that will end the Requiem.

The Offertorio's Domine Jesu Christe unfurls as a rainbow of melody, and Verdi's splendid writing for quartet takes an ecstatic turn in the Hostias. Verdi the opera composer is always at hand, to be sure, but he alludes to actual ecclesiastical traditions as well through the use of counterpoint and chant-like idioms. While the Sanctus divides the chorus into two bodies, this is remarkably unweighty music, whizzing by in a joy-filled fugue (the most compact of the Requiem's movements). The Agnus Dei, in contrast, haunts with its pared-down simplicity — Verdi's modern-day gloss on chant. The movement proceeds as a series of textural variations on a repeated melody: the soprano and mezzo (they sing an octave apart) in alternation with the chorus.

Hints of a death march emerge in the Lux aeterna, but Verdi leads us toward transcendent hope. As the final movement begins, we realize that the soprano has been absent from the foregoing in order to make a dramatic entry in the Libera me, which Verdi divides into several sections. At first the soprano stammers with a kind of dazed anxiety — as if she is about to embark on a mad scene. Verdi then briefly recapitulates the Dies irae, which creeps into the soundscape as a barely subdued threat. But as this sinks into the lower depths, the opening Requiem sequence returns, beautifully reconfigured for soprano and a cappella chorus.

With moving symmetry, Verdi has taken us back to where we started. Another powerful fugue serves as the capstone. Yet its intensity eventually wanes, the complex profusion of lines coming to rest on a repeated monotone C. There is no certain triumph, nor could there be for Verdi, who ends his Requiem with a chord sustained above the abyss, sounding both final and unresolved.

— Thomas May, program annotator for the Los Angeles Master Chorale, writes about the arts and blogs at memeteria.com.

LAMC 15 | 16 CONCERT CALENDAR

UP NEXT

Anthracite Fields Music of the Coal Miner

Sun, Mar 6, 2016 - 7:30 pm

West coast premiere of Julia Wolfe's Pulitzer Prize-winning Anthracite Fields with Bang on a Can All-Stars, as well as American songs and spirituals

Alexander's Feast

Sat, Apr 16, 2016 – 2 pm Sun, Apr 17, 2016 – 7 pm

LAMC's first Hidden Handel oratorio dramatically staged by opera and theater director Trevore Ross

Sonic Masterworks

Sun, Jun 5, 2016 - 7 pm

Choral music "ear candy" by Allegri, Lotti, György Ligeti, Anders Hillborg, Abbie Betinis, Steven Stucky and more

GUEST APPEARANCES

Debussy Pelléas et Mélisande

Fri, Feb 19, 2016 - 8 pm Sun, Feb 21, 2016 - 2 pm Walt Disney Concert Hall Los Angeles Philharmonic Esa-Pekka Salonen, conductor David Edwards, director Mahler Symphony No. 3

Thu, Mar 3, 2016 - 8 pm Fri, Mar 4, 2016 - 8 pm Sat, Mar 5, 2016 - 8 pm Sun, Mar 6, 2016 - 2 pm Walt Disney Concert Hall Los Angeles Philharmonic Gustavo Dudamel, conductor

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Now in his fourteenth season as Artistic Director, Grant has led more than 100 performances with the Chorale at Disney Hall. In addition to conducting acclaimed performances of the classics, he has expanded the choir's repertoire significantly by conducting a number of world premieres: Iri da iri by Esa-Pekka Salonen, the national anthems by David Lang, Songs of Ascent, Inscapes and Plath Songs by Shawn Kirchner; Succession by Nackkum Paik, Los Cantores de las Montañas by Gabriela Lena Frank: Mugunahwa: Rose of Sharon by Mark Grey; You Are (Variations) by Steve Reich; Requiem by Christopher Rouse; City of Dis by Louis Andriessen; Sang by Eve Beglarian; A Map of Los Angeles by David O; Spiral XII by Chinary Ung; Dream Variations by Andrea Clearfield; Music's Music by Steven Sametz; Voici le soir by Morten Lauridsen; Messages and Brief Eternity by Bobby McFerrin and Roger Treece; Broken Charms by Donald Crockett; Rezos (Prayers) by Tania León.

Other appearances:

LA Philharmonic, LA Chamber Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, Utah Opera, Juilliard Opera Theatre, Lincoln Center, Zankel Hall, Teatro Colón, Trinity Wall Street, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and music festivals in Edinburgh, Vienna, Helsinki, Ravinia, Rome, Madrid and Aspen; world premiere performances of The Grapes of Wrath by Ricky Ian Gordon and Ceiling/Sky by John Adams

Other current assignments:

Resident Conductor at LA Opera; made his Santa Fe Opera debut in 2011 conducting Peter Sellars' new production of Vivaldi's Griselda; led the world premiere performances of Daniel Catán's Il Postino with LA Opera in September 2010 and on tour in Santiago, Chile in 2012; led LA Opera performances of La Traviata in 2009, Madame Butterfly in 2012, Carmen in 2013, Florencia en el Amazonas in 2014 and Gianni Schicchi in 2015; conducted Madama Butterly in 2015 and La Traviata at Wolf Trap in 2013; conducted The Gospel According to the Other Mary with LAMC and the Chicago Philharmonic Orchestra at the Ravinia Festival in 2013; conducted the world premiere of James Newton's St. Matthew Passion at the Torino Jazz Festival in 2015

Previous assignments:

Assistant Conductor for the LA Philharmonic, Berlin Staatsoper, Salzburg Festival, Festival Aix-en-Provence

Member of: USC Thornton School of Music Board of Councilors, Chorus America Board of Directors

On disc: Two Grammy Award®nominated recordings: Sweeney Todd (New York Philharmonic Special Editions) and Ligeti's Grand Macabre (Sony Classical); Festival of Carols (LAMC Live), Górecki: Miserere (Decca), A Good Understanding (Decca), Glass-Salonen (RCM), You Are (Variations) (Nonesuch) and Daniel Variations (Nonesuch) with the Master Chorale; The Grapes of Wrath (PS Classics)

Prepared choruses for:

Claudio Abbado, Pierre Boulez, Gustavo Dudamel, Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Simon Rattle, Esa-Pekka Salonen, James Conlon

On film/tv: PBS Great

Performances production and DVD of II Postino, released October 16, 2012; vocal soloist in The X-Files (I Want to Believe); conducted choral sessions for films I Am Legend, Charlie Wilson's War, Lady in the Water and License to Wed; accompanied Kiri Te Kanawa and José Carreras on The Toniaht Show



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In the community: a 12-week residency program, Voices Within, that teaches songwriting and collaborative skills to more than 300 students each year; an annual High School Choir Festival celebrating its 27th year in 2016; the LA Master Chorale Chamber Director Emeritus Paul Salamunovich Singers, an ensemble from the Chorale includes the Grammy Award®that sings at Voices Within culmination performances and the High School Choir Festival; master classes; invited dress rehearsals

On disc: with Artistic Director Grant Gershon includes Festival of Carols, 50th Season Celebration Concert, Górecki: Miserere, Nico Muhly's A Good Understanding (Decca); Philip Glass' Itaipú and Esa-Pekka Salonen's Two Songs to Poems of Ann Jäderlund (RCM); and Steve Reich's You Are (Variations) and Daniel Variations (both on Nonesuch); Shostakovich's Orango,

Adams' The Gospel According to the Other Mary and DVD release of Verdi's Requiem with Gustavo Dudamel and the LA Philharmonic; with Music nominated Lauridsen - Lux Aeterna, Christmas and a recording of Dominick Argento's Te Deum and Maurice Duruflé's Messe "Cum Jubilo"

On film: motion picture soundtracks with Grant Gershon include Lady in the Water, Click and License to Wed; soundtracks with Paul Salamunovich include A.I. Artificial Intelligence, My Best Friend's Wedding, The Sum of All Fears, Bram Stoker's Dracula and Waterworld

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE

SOPRANO

Tamara Bevard Christina Bristow Karen Hogle Brown Hayden Eberhart Claire Fedoruk Nicole Fernandes Rachelle Fox Harriet Fraser Hilary Fraser-Thomson Colleen Graves Ayana Haviv Marie Hodgson Elissa Johnston Virenia Lind Amy Caldwell Mascio Deborah Mayhan Caroline McKenzie Lika Mivake **Beth Peregrine** Zanaida Robles Karen Whipple Schnurr Anna Schubert Holly Sedillos Carrah Stamatakis Courtney Taylor Rebecca Tomlinson Suzanne Waters Elvse Willis Sunioo Yeo Andrea Zomorodian

ALTO

Garineh Avakian Nicole Baker Lesili Beard Rose Beattie Carol Binion Leanna Brand Aleta Braxton Monika Bruckner Janelle DeStefano Becky Dornon Amy Fogerson Michele Hemmings Saundra Hall Hill Callista Hoffman-Campbell Leslie Inman Sarah Lynch Adriana Manfredi Cvnthia Martv Margaurite Mathis-Clark Alice Kirwan Murray Eleni Pantages Shinnshill Park Drea Presslev Laura Smith Roethe Niké St. Clair Nancy Sulahian Kimberly Switzer Kristen Toedtman Tracy Van Fleet

TENOR

Matthew Brown Daniel Chanev Bradlev Chapman Adam Faruqi Jon Gathje Arnold Livingston Geis Jody Golightly **Timothy Gonzales** Steven Harms Todd Honevcutt Blake Howard Brandon Hynum Charlie Kim Shawn Kirchner Brvan Lane Charles Lane Michael Lichtenauer Sal Malaki Michael McDonough Matthew Miles Adam Noel George Sterne A.J. Teshin Matthew Thomas Matthew Tresler

BASS

Joseph Bazyouros Mark Beasom Michael Blanchard **Reid Bruton** Kevin Dalbev Gregory Geiger Dylan Gentile Will Goldman Abdiel Gonzalez Scott Graff Stephen Grimm James Hayden David Dong-Geun Kim Kvungtae Kim Luc Kleiner David Kress Yannick Lambrecht Chung Uk Lee Scott Lehmkuhl Scott Levin Edward Levv Brett McDermid Cale Olson Steve Pence Jim Raycroft Vincent Robles Douglas Shabe Mark Edward Smith Paul Sobosky Ryan Villaverde Shuo Zhai

The singers of the Los Angeles Master Chorale are represented by the American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO; Amy Fogerson, AGMA Delegate.

LOS ANGELES MASTER CHORALE ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I

Roger Wilkie, Concertmaster Ana Landauer, Associate Concertmaster Joel Pargman, Assistant Concertmaster Margaret Wooten Flo Titmus Leslie Katz Nina Evtuhov Anna Kostucheck Cynthia Moussas Mui Yee Chu Nicole Bush Manuela Wunder

VIOLIN II

Jessica Guideri, Principal Radu Pieptea, Associate Principal Elizabeth Hedman Lilliana Filipovic Jean Sudbury Linda Stone Steve Scharf Juliann French Coleen Coomber Kirsten Fife VIOLA Shawn Mann, Principal Dmitri Bovaird, Associate Principal Gina Coletti Brett Banducci Karolina Naziemiec Colleen Sugata Lissy Wilson Andrea Whitt

CELLO

Cecilia Tsan, Principal Dane Little, Associate Principal Nadine Hall Maurice Grants Maggie Edmonson Ira Glansbeek

BASS

Don Ferrone, *Principal* Ann Atkinson, *Associate Principal* Peter Doubrovsky Tim Eckert

FLUTE Geri Rotella, *Principal* Lisa Edelstein Sarah Weisz **OBOE** Leslie Reed, *Principal* Michele Forrest

CLARINET Gary Bovyer, Principal Michael Grego

BASSOON

William May, Principal Samantha Duckworth William Wood Theresa Treuenfels

HORN Steve Becknell, *Principal* Laura Brenes

Laura Brenes Kristy Morrell Nathan Campbell

TRUMPET David Washburn, Principal Marissa Benedict Rob Schaer Jennifer Marotta

TROMBONE William Booth

William Booth, *Principal* Al Veeh Terry Cravens

TUBA Doug Tornquist, Principal

TIMPANI Theresa Dimond, Principal

PERCUSSION John Wakefield, Principal

OFFSTAGE TRUMPETS Ryan Darke Rob Frear Tim Hall Jonah Levy

PERSONNEL MANAGER Brady Steel

LIBRARIAN Mark Fabulich

SOLOISTS

AMBER WAGNER

SOPRANO

Awards and recognition: winner of the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Finals and was featured in the documentary film The Audition; won the Liederkranz Foundation Competition. Richard Tucker Career Grant Award, Kirsten Flagstad Award from the George London Foundation, recipient of a Sullivan Foundation Career Grant, first place winner



of the Palm Beach Opera and Palm Springs Opera Guild Competitions, winner of the Lynne Harvey Scholarship from the Musicians Club of Women and winner of the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation Competition

Guest artist appearances: Toronto Symphony Orchestra, L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice, Melbourne Symphony, Taipei Symphony, Pacific Chorale, Kansas City Symphony, Orquesta Filarmonica de Jalisco in Guadalajara, Mexico, Spokane Symphony, Aspen Music Festival, Oregon Symphony, Tucson Symphony, Colorado Symphony

Opera roles/performances: Leonora in II Trovatore, Elisabeth in Tannhäuser and title role in Ariadne auf Naxos with Chicago Lyric Opera; Leonora in La forza del destino, Washington National Opera; Amelia in Un Ballo in Maschera with the Metropolitan Opera; Sieglinde in Die Walküre at Oper Frankfurt, Senta in Der fliegende Holländer with the Savonlinna Opera Festival

MICHELLE DE YOUNG

MF770 SOPRANO

Awards and recognition: 2003 Grammy Award for Kindertotenlieder and Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony; 2001 Grammy Award for Les Troyens with Sir Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra



Guest artist appearances: New York

Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra,

Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, The Met Orchestra, the Met Chamber Ensemble, Vienna Philharmonic, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, Bayerische Staatsoper Orchestra, Berliner Staatskapelle, São Paulo Symphony, Concertgebouworkest; festivals include Ravinia, Tanglewood, Aspen, Cincinnati, Saito Kinen, Edinburgh, Salzburg and Lucerne

Opera roles/performances: title roles in Samson et Dalila and The Rape of Lucretia; Fricka, Sieglinde and Waltraute in The Ring Cycle; Kundry in Parsifal, Venus in Tannhäuser, Brangäne in Tristan und Isolde, Eboli in Don Carlos, Amneris in Aida, Santuzza in Cavalleria Rusticana, Marguerite in Le Damnation de Faust, Judith in Bluebeard's Castle, Didon in Les Troyens, Gertrude in Hamlet and Jocaste in Oedipus Rex; opera house appearances include Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Seattle Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, La Scala, Bayreuth Festival, Berliner Staatsoper, Hamburg State Opera, Opera National de Paris, Thèâtre du Châtelet, Opéra de Nice, Theater Basel and Tokyo Opera

Recordings and media: Mahler Symphony No. 3 with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Bernard Haitink (CSO Resound) and with the Pittsburgh Symphony and Manfred Honeck (PID): Bernstein's Symphony No. 1, Jeremiah with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Leonard Slatkin (Chandos), Das Klagende Lied with the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas (BMG), Das Lied von der Erde with the Minnesota Orchestra (Reference Recordings)

ISSACHAH SAVAGE TENOR

Education: Bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Morgan State University and Master's degree in Opera Voice Performance from The Catholic University of America; participated in San Francisco Opera's Merola Program in the summer of 2013

Awards and recognition: won the main prize, audience favorite prize and orchestra



Photo: Kristin Hoeberman

favorite prize at the Seattle International Wagner Competition in 2014; 2012 grand prize in the Marcello Giordani International Competition; two first place prizes in the Liederkranz Foundation competition; has received awards, recognition and career grants from Wagner Societies of New York, Washington, D.C. and Northern California, Licia Albanese International Puccini Foundation, Olga Forrai Foundation, Gerda Lissner Foundation, Jensen Vocal Competition, Opera Index, Giulio Gari Foundation

Guest artist appearances: Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Orchestre National de Bordeaux-Aquitaine; Wynton Marsalis' All Rise with Kurt Masur and the New York Philharmonic; world premiere of Leslie Savoy Burr's Egypt's Night with Philadelphia's Opera North, Gershwin's Blue Monday with Marin Alsop and the Baltimore Symphony; Verdi Requiem with the Flint Symphony Orchestra

Opera roles/performances: Metropolitan Opera debut as Don Riccardo in Verdi's Ernani in 2015; Siegmund in Die Walküre with the Canadian Opera Company; mainstage debut as Bacchus in Ariadne auf Naxos with Seattle Opera; Radames in Aida at Houston Grand Opera, North Carolina Opera and Aspen Music Festival

MORRIS ROBINSON

BASS

Education: graduate of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program; graduate of The Citadel and received his musical training from the Boston University Opera Institute



Guest artist appearances: Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, Houston Symphony, L'Orchestre

Symphonique de Montréal, Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra, Baltimore Symphony, Met Chamber Orchestra, Nashville Symphony Orchestra, São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, New England String Ensemble; Ravinia, Mostly Mozart, Tanglewood, Cincinnati May, Verbier and Aspen Music Festivals

Opera roles/performances: Sarastro in Die Zauberflöte, Ferrando in II Trovatore, the King in Aida, Osmin in Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Ramfis in Aida, Zaccaria in Nabucco, Sparafucile in Rigoletto, Commendatore in Don Giovanni, Grand Inquisitor in Don Carlos, Timur in Turandot, the Bonze in Madama Butterfly, Padre Guardiano in La Forza del Destino and Fasolt in Das Rheingold; appearances with Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Dallas Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Seattle Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Theater of St. Louis, Vancouver Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Opera Australia, Aix-en-Provence Festival

Recordings and media: 200 Motels by Frank Zappa with the LA Philharmonic, Going Home, released on Decca

Photo: Ron Cadi:

TRANSLATIONS

Requiem

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Te decet hymnus Deus in Sion, et tibi redetur votum in Jerusalem: exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis. Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

Dies irae

Dies irae, dies illa, solvet saeclum in favilla, teste David cum Sibylla.

Quantus tremor est futurus, quando judex est venturus, cuncta stricte discussurus!

Tuba mirum spargens sonum

per sepulchra regionum, coget omnes ante thronum.

Mors stupebit, et natura, cum resurget creatura, judicanti responsura.

Liber scriptus proferetur, in quo totum continetur, unde mundus judicetur.

Judex ergo cum sedebit, quidquid latet apparebit: nil inultum remanebit.

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus?

Quem patronum rogaturus? Cum vix justus sit securus?

Rex tremendae majestatis, qui salvandos salvas gratis, salva me fons pietatis.

Recordare Jesu pie, quod sum causa tuae viae, ne me perdas illa die.

Quaerens me, sedisti lassus; redemisti crucem passus.

Tantus labor non sit cassus.

Juste judex ultionis, donum fac remissionis ante diem rationis. Grant to them eternal rest, O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon them. A hymn befits thee, O God in Zion, and to thee a vow shall be fulfilled in Jerusalem: Hear my prayer, For unto thee all flesh shall come. Grant to them eternal rest, O Lord,

and let perpetual light shine upon them. Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Day of wrath, that day,

shall dissolve the world into embers.

the rigorous investigator of all things!

The trumpet, spreading its wondrous

through the tombs of every land.

will summon all before the throne.

Death will be stunned, likewise nature, when all creation shall rise again

A written book will be brought forth,

as David prophesied with the Sibyl.

How great the trembling will be,

when the judge shall come,

to answer the one judging.

in which all shall be contained,

and from which the world shall be

When therefore the judge is seated,

no wrong shall remain unpunished.

Which protector shall I ask for,

King of terrifying majesty,

save me, fount of pity.

redeemed me.

who freely saves the saved,

Remember, merciful Jesus,

that I am the cause of your sojourn,

do not cast me out on that day.

Seeking me, you sat down weary;

May such great labor not be in vain.

having suffered the cross, you

Just judge of vengeance,

grant the gift of remission

before the day of reckoning.

whatever lies hidden shall be revealed,

What then am I, a poor wretch, going

when even the just are scarcely secure?

sound

judged.

to say?

Ingemisco, tamquam reus; culpa rubet vultus meus. Supplicanti parce Deus.

Qui Mariam absolvisti, et latronum exaudisti, mihi quoque spem dedisti.

Preces meae non sunt dignae; sed tu bonus fac benigne ne perenni cremer igne.

Inter oves locum praesta,

et ab hoedis me sequestra, statuens in parte dextra.

Confutatis maledictis, flammis acribus addictis, voca me cum benedictis.

Oro supplex et acclinis, cor contritum quasi cinis: gere curam mei finis.

Lacrymosa dies illa, qua resurget ex favilla judicandus homo reus. Huic ergo parce Deus. Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem. Amen.

Offertorio

Domine Jesu Christe, rex gloriae, libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu.

Libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas tartarus, ne cadant in obscurum: sed signifier sanctus Michael repraesentet eas in lucem sanctam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti, et semini ejus.

Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus.

Tu suscipe pro animabus illis quarum hodie memoriam facimus. Fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam, quam olim Abrahae promisisti, et semini ejus. I groan, like one who is guilty; my face blushes with guilt. Spare thy supplicant, O God.

You who absolved Mary [Magdalene], and heeded the thief, have also given hope to me.

My prayers are not worthy, but Thou, good one, kindly grant that I not burn in the everlasting fires.

Grant me a favored place among thy sheep,

and separate me from the goats, placing me at thy right hand.

When the accursed are confounded, consigned to the fierce flames, call me to be with the blessed.

I pray, suppliant and kneeling, my heart contrite as if it were ashes: protect me in my final hour.

O how tearful that day, on which the guilty shall rise from the embers to be judged. Spare them then, O God. Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, liberate the souls of all the faithful departed from the pains of hell and from the deep pit.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth, let not hell swallow them up, let them not fall into darkness: but let Michael, the holy standard-bearer, bring them into the holy light,

which once thou promised to Abraham and to his seed.

Sacrifices and prayers of praise, O Lord, we offer to thee.

Receive them, Lord, on behalf of those souls we commemorate this day. Grant them, O Lord, to pass from death unto life, which once thou promised to Abraham and to his seed.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem.

Agnus dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona eis requiem sempiternam.

Lux aeterna

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine; cum sanctis tuis in aeternum, quia pius es. Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Libera me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna, in die illa tremenda: quando coeli movendi sunt et terra; dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Tremens factus sum ego, et timeo dum discussio venerit, atque ventura ira.

Dies irae, dies illa, calamitatis et miseriae, dies magna et amara valde, dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, grant them rest everlasting.

May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord, in the company of thy saints forever and ever; for thou art merciful. Grant to them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Deliver me, O Lord, from death eternal, on that dreadful day: when the heavens and earth shall quake, when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

I am seized by trembling, and I fear until the judgement should come, and I also dread the coming wrath.

O that day, day of wrath, day of calamity and misery, momentous day, and exceedingly bitter, when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire.

Grant to them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

-Translation by Ron Jeffers

IN MEMORY OF Bette Redmond

Elizabeth "Bette" Redmond, 85, of La Canãda, California, passed away in September 2015 after a long illness. Bette served on the board of the Los Angeles Master



Chorale from 1999 to 2009 and was an active member of the Master Chorale Associates the volunteer arm of the LA Master Chorale for many years. Her passion and commitment to the Master Chorale's annual High School Choir Festival was an inspiration for those who had the pleasure of working with her, as she dedicated uncountable hours that helped shape the Festival into the wildly successful education program it is today.

Bette was the loving wife of Charles R. "Chuck" Redmond, who predeceased her in 2001. She is survived by two daughters, Kathleen Kamille and Patricia Redmond; one son, John Redmond; and by her two grandchildren, Charles and Sarah Redmond. Another daughter, Melanie Redmond, passed away earlier in 2015.

We remember Bette's leadership, kindness and steadfast support during a time of immense growth for our organization and celebrate her incredible life. Thank you, Bette!



Grant Gershon Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director

UP NEXT



Photo: Peter Serlin

Anthracite Fields Music of the Coal Miner

Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 7:30pm

Julia Wolfe | Anthracite Fields WEST COAST PREMIERE With Bang on a Can All-Stars And other songs, hymns and spirituals

Few people know the hardships of the world beneath our feet better than coal miners. The sweat, blood, tears and lives they sacrificed fueled the industrial revolution that built our modern world. Take a journey underground for Julia Wolfe's musical and photographic survey of *Anthracite Fields*, the 2015 Pulitzer Prizewinner for music, described by the *New York Times* as "polished and stylistically assured" and "a major, profound work" by the *LA Times*.



Alexander's Feast

Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 2 pm Sunday, April 17, 2016 at 7 pm

George Frideric Handel | Alexander's Feast (The Power of Music) Trevore Ross, Stage Director

Alexander's Feast celebrates the power of music both to soothe and electrify listeners with its seductive influence. Opera and theater director Trevore Ross sets the stage with dramatic lighting and movement to portray a festive party at Disney Hall, telling the story of the musician Timotheus, who by playing his lyre aroused various moods within Alexander the Great and his army after having just conquered the Persian city of Persepolis.

TICKETS START AT \$29! LAMC.ORG OR 213-972-7282 Mon-Sat 10-6

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For more information, please contact Desiree Gagnon at 213.972.3162 or dgagnon@lamc.org or visit lamc.org/gala.

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To report an error, omission or change in your listing, please contact us.

PATRON RECEPTION

On Sunday, December 13, 2015, following the *Rejoice! Brass Tidings* concert, the Los Angeles Master Chorale treated 50 new subscribers and donors to a post-concert reception. Holiday cookies and beverages were the spotlight of the party!

Grant Gershon, Kiki & David Gindler Artistic Director, greeted special guests in the Green Room of Walt Disney Concert Hall along with LAMC President and CEO Jean Davidson and our newest Board member, Jenny Kim.

We thank our subscribers and donors for their commitment to the Chorale! The promise you provide by attending concerts, giving back and sharing our story makes a deep impact on ensuring that our organization thrives. We are deeply grateful.



We are thrilled to have been joined by seasoned and new board members for our celebration.



Artistic Director Grant Gershon enjoys great conversation with friends.



Smiling for a photo op, our happy new patrons reminisce about their favorite parts of the concert.

THANK YOU Dan Murphy Foundation!

The Los Angeles Master Chorale wishes to thank the Dan Murphy Foundation for its generous sponsorship of tonight's performance. "The foundation's long-standing support for this organization has made a tremendous impact over the years and we are incredibly grateful," said Jean Davidson, President and CEO of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. "We are honored to be part of the Foundation's remarkable philanthropic legacy serving the Southern California community."

LAMC BOARD WELCOMES NEW MEMBER Jenny Soonjin Kim

The Los Angeles Master Chorale is pleased to welcome distinguished musician, teacher and scholar Jenny



Soonjin Kim as the newest member of the Board of Directors. Jenny, an accomplished pianist whose successful performance and teaching career has yielded multiple recordings, earned a BA in Music Performance from Seoul National University and piano diploma at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Once in the U.S., Jenny continued her music education at USC where she received both a Master of Music degree and a Graduate Certificate in piano performance, and later received a Music Management and Merchandising diploma from UCLA. Jenny was a member of the piano faculty at Shepherd University from 2008-2011. In 2012 she completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Historical Performance Practices at Claremont Graduate University, where she continues today on the faculty of the music department, and has performed not only as a solo pianist and fortepianist but also on harpsichord, in both solo and chamber settings. Says LAMC Board Chairman David Gindler, "We are thrilled to be joined on the Board by someone of Jenny's considerable talent and musical skill. She will add considerably to the breadth of knowledge and expertise that our Board represents."

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The Los Angeles Master Chorale established the Roger Wagner Society to honor and recognize individuals who have expressed their commitment to the art of choral music by making a gift to the Master Chorale's endowment or a planned gift benefitting LAMC. Through this support, Society members ensure the long-term fiscal stability of the Master Chorale by creating a lasting legacy that will help preserve a vital cultural resource for future generations. The Society is named for the late Roger Wagner who founded the Master Chorale in 1964 and served as its Music Director until 1986.

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The Los Angeles Master Chorale is supported, in part, through grants from the California Arts Council, the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts.



ART WORKS



FOR TICKETS Phone: 213-972-7282 (MON-SAT. 10-6) **Online: LAMC.ORG**

FEBRUARY 2016 GMusicCenterLA MusicCenterLA



8:30 PM

la phil 02	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL CITY OF LIGHT: Messiaen with the St. Louis Symphony 8:00 PM	LA PHIL	16	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL Australian Chamber Orchestra 8:00 PM	LA PHIL	23	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL CITY OF LIGHT: Chamber Music from France 8:00 PM
CENTER THEATRE GROUP D2 Thru 3/13	AHMANSON THEATRE An Act of God 8:00 PM	Photo by David Pache			REDCAT	24	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER Lori Freedman & Quasar Saxophone Quartet Feat. guest artist Fred Frith
REDCAT 04 Thru 2/14	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER The Wooster Group: <i>The Room</i> by Harold Pinter 8:30 PM				LA PHIL	25 Thru 2/28	8:30 PM WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL Dudamel & Music from the Americas 8:00 PM
the music center 05	DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION Sleepless: The Music Center After Hours 11:30 PM	REDCAT	18 Thru 2/21	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER Christiance Jatahy: Julia 8:30 PM	REDCAT	25	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER ARRAY @ The Broad: Ashes and Embers 8:30 PM
la phil 06	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL Brian Stokes Mitchell 8:00 PM	LA PHIL	19 Thru 2/21	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL CITY OF LIGHT: Pelléas et Mélisande 8:00 PM	REDCAT	26	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER George Saunders 8:30 PM
CENTER THEATRE GROUP 100 Thru 3/20	MARK TAPER FORUM The Mystery of Love & Sex 8:00 PM	LA PHIL	20	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL Dianne Reeves • Gregory Porter 8:00 PM	N ¹		
LA PHIL 12 Thru 2/14	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL CITY OF LIGHT: <i>Mother Goose</i> , with Installation 8:00 PM	LA PHIL	21	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL Yundi in Recital 7:30 PM	eet St m & Broc rooklyn 17 Av		
Photo by Robert Millard		REDCAT	22	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER Three Films by Jennifer Reeder 8:30 PM	LA PHIL	26	WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL Daniil Trifonov 8:00 PM
la opera 13	DOROTHY CHANDLER PAVILION The Magic Flute 7:30 PM	REDCAT	23	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER Piano Spheres: Vicki Ray	REDCAT	27	ROY AND EDNA DISNEY CALARTS THEATER Callings Out of Context: Tyondai Braxton + Daniel Wohl

l Thru 3/6

Piano Spheres: Vicki Ray 8:30 PM